

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 USIA-06 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6242
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV SF WA US UN
SUBJ: NAMIBIA TALKS: TURNHALLE SPEAKS

1. SUMMARY: IN STATEMENT RELEASED IN CAPE TOWN JUNE 10,
TURNHALLE REPRESENTATIVES IMPLIED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP
HAD INITIATED THE PROPOSAL FOR A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE
AUTHORITY. THEY ALSO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY
ORIGINATED THE IDEA OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL FOR
NAMIBIA (WHICH, IF BELIEVED, WOULD PUT A STIGMA ON THE
IDEA AND PERHAPS ENGENDER SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO IT).
BECAUSE OF THESE MISREPRESENTATIONS AND BECAUSE VORSTER
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MADE STATEMENT REGARDING TURNHALLE, CONTACT GROUP
TOLD HIM THIS AFTERNOON THAT WE INTENDED TO MAKE
OWN STATEMENT. TEXTS OF THE THREE STATEMENTS FOLLOW.
END SUMMARY.

2. TURNHALLE STATEMENT: QUOTE "DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF
SOUTH WEST AFRICA WERE HELD IN CAPE TOWN FROM 6 TO 10 JUNE 1977

BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. WE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONTINUED REFUSAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AS THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLES OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA, THE MATTER COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED BY THE HOLDING OF FREE ELECTIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

3. A PROPOSAL WHICH THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD COMMUNICATED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT RELATING TO THE INSTITUTION OF A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD UNTIL SUCH ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD WAS CONSIDERED BY US BUT WAS FOUND TO BE UNACCEPTABLE IN THE FORM ENVISAGED. WE ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER NOT TO PROCEED WITH HIS UNDERTAKING TO INSTITUTE SUCH AN AUTHORITY BUT INSTEAD TO APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL TO CARRY ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY UNTIL ELECTIONS WERE HELD AND A GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTED IN TERMS OF A CONSTITUTION DECIDED UPON BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

4. WE ALSO EXPRESSED OUR DEEP CONCERN REGARDING THE PLIGHT OF MEMBERS OF SWAPO DETAINED IN CAMPS IN ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA AND STRONGLY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT COULD TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE." UNQUOTE

5. VORSTER STATEMENT: QUOTE "FROM THE 6TH TO THE 10TH JUNE THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER HELD DISCUSSIONS IN CAPE TOWN WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TURNHALLE.

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6. IN THE COURSE THEREOF IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE FIVE HAD CERTAIN OBJECTIONS TO AN INTERIM CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION IN A FORM THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS GOVERNMENT BY THE TURNHALLE IN ANOTHER GUISE.

7. THE TURNHALLE FROM ITS SIDE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE MATTER COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED BY THE HOLDING OF FREE ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, AND ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER NOT TO PROCEED WITH HIS UNDERTAKING TO INSTITUTE A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY AS REQUESTED BY THEM.

8. PURSUANT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ALSO WITH THE FIVE, AND WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE TURNHALLE GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH A PROPOSAL TO APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL TO CARRY ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND A GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTED IN TERMS OF A CONSTITUTION DECIDED UPON BY THE PROPOSED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY." UNQUOTE

9. CG STATEMENT (GIVEN TO PRESS BY MCHENRY, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE CG): QUOTE "WITH REGARD TO THE STATEMENT MADE TODAY BY THE TURNHALLE GROUP, THE CONTACT GROUP MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS REGARDING A TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION FOR NAMIBIA. WE DID STATE THAT A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO US WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WAS PREDOMINANTLY ETHNIC, LACKED NEUTRALITY, AND APPEARED TO PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF FREE ELECTIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

10. ALTHOUGH THE TURNHALLE GROUP GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ORIGINATED THE IDEA OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL FOR NAMIBIA, THIS WAS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES AIRED IN OUR APRIL TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

11. AS TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, WE WOULD JUDGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT MOVE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CONTRIBUTES TO OUR AIM TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIA QUESTION." UNQUOTE.BOWDLER

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